

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125743
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125743

STADIS/////////////////
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: A POSSIBLE DECLARATION OF PANAMA

FOR AMBASSADORS JORDEN AND VAKY

1. IN PLANNING THE GENERAL POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PANAMA NEXT MONTH, WE HAVE BEEN CON-
SIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A PUBLIC DECLARATION OR SIMILAR
STATEMENT WHICH THE PRESIDENT, GENERAL TORRIJOS, AND OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 125743

LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE COULD COLLECTIVELY
SUPPORT. THE STATEMENT COULD BUILD UPON THE SUCCESS
ACHIEVED IN CONCLUDING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AND LAY
OUT OTHER BROAD INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES WHICH THE PRESI-
DENTS WOULD AGREE TO SEEK IN THE SAME SPIRIT.

2. ANY SUCH STATEMENT WOULD OF COURSE BE DISTINCT FROM

THE BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL TORRIJOS, REFERRING EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. OBJECTIVE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (NEGOTIATED AD REFERENDUM WITH PANAMANIAN DURING AMBASSADOR POPPER'S RECENT VISIT) IS TO RE-ASSERT THE BALANCE OF INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATIES; TO FULFILL THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT, IN HIS LETTER TO GENERAL

TORRIJOS, TO RE-AFFIRM OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION WHEN INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION ARE EXCHANGED; AND TO STRESS THE JOINT DETERMINATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH AN EXEMPLARY AND LASTING PARTNERSHIP FOUNDED UPON MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT AND COOPERATION.

3. IN CONTRAST, WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY ALL THE ATTENDING LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, GENERAL TORRIJOS AND PRESIDENT CARTER. OUR EXPERIENCE LAST SEPTEMBER WITH THE DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON SUGGESTS THAT SUCH A DECLARATION COULD NOT GO MUCH BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL IDEAS ON WHICH THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED ARE ALREADY IN AGREEMENT. IT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO HEMISPHERIC MATTERS OF EVIDENT MAJOR CONCERN TO THE SIGNATORIES. EVEN SO, CAREFUL ADVANCE NEGOTIATION WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 125743

4. IN OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING, WE CONCEIVE OF A STATEMENT WHICH WOULD IN ITS PREAMBLE NOTE THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN COMPLETING THE TREATIES; STRESS THEIR IMPORTANCE AS INSTRUMENTS NEGOTIATED ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY AND WITH FULL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY; AND DECLARE AN INTENT TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE SAME COOPERATIVE SPIRIT TO ACHIEVE OTHER FUNDAMENTAL INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

5. THE PRESIDENTS MIGHT THEN PLEDGE THEMSELVES IN GENERAL TERMS (AVOIDING THE DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY SPECIFICS) TO TAKE A NUMBER OF STEPS TO STRENGTHEN PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; SUPPORT FOR UN AND OAS PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES; OPPOSITION TO INTERVENTION; BRINGING INTO EFFECT A LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE; AND MEASURES TO RESTRAIN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRAFFIC IN THE REGION. A SECOND SECTION OF THE DECLARATION MIGHT PLEDGE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. A THIRD SECTION WOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING FOR ALL AND MIGHT INDICATE SUPPORT FOR IDB AND IBRD PROGRAMS AND FUNDING, COOPERATION IN ATTAINING GREATER REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND PERHAPS PROVISIONS ON REDUCTION OF TRADE BARRIERS AND COMMODITY PRICE STABILIZATION ON TERMS EQUITABLE TO ALL.

6. WE SEE NO NECESSARY INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND SUCH A JOINT DECLARATION, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THERE MAY BE A DANGER OF OVERKILL. BEARING IN MIND THAT WE HAVE ALREADY NEGOTIATED THE BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE WITH THE PANAMANIAN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF DECLARATION, AND WHAT HOST GOVERN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 125743

MENT'S REACTION MIGHT BE TO ISSUANCE OF A BROAD STATEMENT OF THIS KIND. ROBERT PASTOR OF THE NSC HAS WORKED ON THE MATTER AND HAS TWO ILLUSTRATIVE DRAFTS WITH HIM. HE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE IDEA OF A DECLARATION WITH YOU. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OUTSIDE USG CIRCLES.

7. PLEASE SHOW PASTOR THIS MESSAGE. ONCE WE HAVE YOUR VIEWS AND PASTOR'S REPORT OF HIS CONSULTATION ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF A STATEMENT, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW HOW WE INTEND TO PROCEED.

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